

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 117997  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 SIG-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CPR-01  
SSO-00 PRS-01 USIA-06 /084 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:EWLOLLIS/MPH  
APPROVED BY AF :WESCHAUFEL  
AF/E:RWBAKER (PAR 5)  
AF/C:AARENALES (PAR 4)  
NSC:TTHORNTON (PHONE)  
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH  
-----211753Z 124965 /50

P R 211715Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMCONSUL IBADAN  
AMCONSUL KADUNA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USMISSION USUN NY  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117997

CAPE TOWN FOR EMB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, EGEN, NI, BR, CG, AO, KE, TZ

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SUBJECT: VISIT TO US BY NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMIS-  
SIONER GARBA

REF: STATE 112198 NOTAL

1. BRIGADIER JOSEPH GARBA, NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND TWO AIDES VISITED WASHINGTON FOR

24 HOURS MAY 19-20 ENROUTE BRAZIL. HE WAS MET AND SEEN OFF BY DEPOFFS, BUT NEITHER SIDE REQUESTED MEETINGS IN VIEW FREQUENCY OF GARBA'S RECENT CONTACT WITH EMBASSY LAGOS. GARBA APPARENTLY SPENT MORNING OF MAY 20 VISITING NEW RESIDENCE OF NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND, AND LATER WAS INTERVIEWED BY VOICE OF AMERICA.

2. BRAZIL. GARBA WAS NON-COMMITAL ABOUT HIS VISIT TO BRAZIL, DECLINING TO COMMENT ON LAGOS RADIO BROADCAST (REPORTED BY FBIS) SAYING HE WAS ENROUTE TO SIGN IMPORTANT NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT. GARBA SAID HIS DEPARTURE FROM BRAZIL WAS PLANNED TO BE BY CONCORDE DIRECTLY TO PARIS ON MAY 29 FOR CIEC MINISTERIAL MEETING, BUT HE WAS HOPING TO LEAVE BRAZIL MAY 27 AND FLY TO PARIS VIA NEW YORK.

3. US INVITATION TO NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE. GARBA ASKED

DEPOFF RATHER ANXIOUSLY ABOUT STATUS OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE INVITING HIM TO VISIT US IN OCTOBER. HE RECOMMENDED THAT SENIOR US OFFICIAL FLY TO LAGOS AND DELIVER THE LETTER IN PERSON. HE AND NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR SANU POINTED OUT THAT GENERAL OBASANJO HAS NOT BEEN OUT OF NIGERIA SINCE HE BECAME HEAD OF STATE EXCEPT FOR BRIEF TRIP TO LOME AND COTONOU. ACCORDING GARBA, "OUR DETRACTORS" WOULD LOOK DISAPPROVINGLY ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO US PRIOR OBASANJO VISITING CERTAIN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY FAVOR VISIT TO US AND SO WOULD OBASANJO BUT REMINDED DEPOFF THAT OTHER HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

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PLACED MEMBERS OF FMG LIKELY TAKE DIFFERENT VIEW. HE THOUGHT SUCH OBSTACLES COULD BE OVERCOME IF WE PREPARED WAY IN ADVANCE. ONE WAY OF DOING THIS WOULD BE TO DELIVER INVITATION BY PERSONAL EMISSARY. ASKED WHEN SUCH A VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE, GARBA REPLIED AT ANY TIME BUT SUGGESTED THAT PERIOD BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND JUNE 7 (JUST AFTER HIS RETURN FROM CIEC AND PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE) WOULD BE IDEAL.

4. ANGOLA/ZAIRE. DEPOFF ASKED GARBA IF HE HAS HEARD FURTHER FROM ANGOLANS SINCE HIS VISIT TO LUANDA MAY 10-11 (LAGOS 5509). HE SAID THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED TO HAVE HEARD NOTHING BY THIS TIME BUT WAS PLANNING TO PHONE OBASANJO LATER MAY 20 TO SEE IF ANY WORD HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN LAGOS.

5. EAST AFRICA. GARBA VOLUNTEERED HIS CONCERN FOR DETERIORATING SITUATION IN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY. HE SAID GOVERNMENT OF KENYA SENT DELEGATION TO LAGOS RE-

QUESTING MEDIATION WITH GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA FOLLOWING  
CLOSURE OF BORDER. HE SAID HE MAY GO TO DAR ES SALAAM  
DIRECTLY FROM PARIS AT BEGINNING OF JUNE.

6. FOR LAGOS: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT PARA  
3 ABOVE SOONEST.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INVITATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** VISIT TO US BY NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMIS- SIONER GARBA  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PFOR, EGEN, NI, BR, CG, AO, KE, TZ, US, (GARBA, JOSEPH N)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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